

APPENDIX C
AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE LETTERS



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
1616 Chappie James Avenue
Tuskegee, Alabama 36083

FEB 6 2004

Ms. Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Dear Ms. Brown:

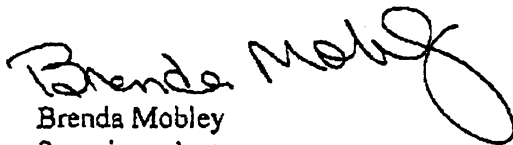
The National Park Service (NPS) is planning to rehabilitate, preserve, and interpret the Moton Field Historic Complex at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site (NHS) as provided for in Public Law 105-355 which established the NHS. The Moton Field Complex is located in Macon County, Alabama, approximately 2 miles north of the city of Tuskegee. The purpose of the site is to commemorate and interpret the valuable contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen, African-Americans who completed Army Air Corps training and were commissioned as pilots and officers during World War II at Moton Field. The goal of this project is to preserve and restore the existing historic structures and cultural landscape of the site. The intent of landscape improvements will be to return the site to its appearance during the war years from 1941 to 1945.

The NPS is developing options for the restoration of the historic buildings at Moton Field. These options were developed within the framework of the 1998 Special Resource Study (SRS) for this site, Alternative "C" as mandated in the enabling legislation. As an integral part of the planning for this project, the NPS is preparing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for the development of the NHS.

You will find enclosed CD's of the Cultural Landscape Report and Historic Structures Report prepared by the NPS for the site in 2000. Also, enclosed is a brief description of what is expected to be the NPS preferred alternative in the NEPA document, including a depiction of the site overall and a focused depiction of the historic core area. You may also refer to the 1998 SRS previously sent to your office. Based on the information in these documents, the NPS has determined that implementation within the framework of SRS Alternative C will not adversely affect historic properties listed or proposed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We request your concurrence in this finding.

If you have any questions concerning the undertaking or require more detailed plans, please contact Tyrone Brandyburg at (334) 727-3200.

Sincerely,


Brenda Mobley
Superintendent

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

FEB 13 2004

February 10, 2004

Ms. Suzanne Boltz
EA Engineering, Science, & Technology
15 Loveton Circle
Sparks, MD 21152

SUBJ.: Early Coordination
Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, Development Concept Plan

Dear Ms. Boltz:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, received your letter dated January 29, 2004 concerning the proposed project. We appreciate your early coordination with us, and are responding to your request for input with regard to identifying potential issues of concern within the project area.

EPA's review of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document will consist of reviewing environmental issues related to the impacts of the proposed project on the water, air, land, wildlife in the area, and other environmental parameters. For your assistance, attached are preliminary comments pertaining to the contents of a NEPA document.

We appreciate your consistency with the public review and disclosure aspects of the NEPA process, and the opportunity to provide early coordination. We look forward to reviewing the NEPA document that you may develop for the proposed project.

If you have any further questions or concerns, you may contact Ramona McConney of my staff at (404) 562-9615.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "H. Mueller", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

Heinz Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office

Enclosure

ELEMENTS OF A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) DOCUMENT

Project Need - The need, potential benefits and adverse effects of the proposed project should be clearly stated. Project impacts and impact mitigation are evaluated in the context of project need.

Alternatives - The analysis of alternatives is the *core* of the NEPA process. If an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared, a minimum of two feasible action alternatives should be fully considered as well as the No-Action Alternative. An Environmental Assessment (EA) includes a minimum of one feasible action alternative besides the No-Action Alternative. EISs document significant impacts to the human environment, while EAs determine if impacts are significant and an EIS is needed.

A rationale for rejecting alternatives should be provided. These rationales should include environmental reasons, along with other considerations. The selected alternative should avoid/minimize adverse impacts, so that the need for mitigation of impacts will be lessened or eliminated. A critical factor of the alternatives analysis is the avoidance/minimization of adverse impacts.

Wetlands - The EIS should discuss the location, amount, type, and quality of wetland acreage in the study area, and how wetlands were delineated (i.e., COE, contractor, lead agency, etc.). A draft mitigation plan to compensate for predicted wetland losses should be developed during the NEPA process, if applicable. Feasible alternatives that avoid wetland impacts should be consistent with the 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act.

Water Quality - Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be used to reduce erosion during construction. Typical BMPs include the use of staked hay bales, silt fences, mulching and reseeding, and appropriate buffer zones along water bodies. The document should include an erosion control plan or reference the State erosion control regulations and a commitment to compliance. Compliance should include both BMP application and maintenance.

The document should discuss any proposed crossings of water bodies. In general, crossings should be minimized. Unavoidable crossings should be strategically placed to reduce harm by avoiding fish spawning areas, avoiding fringe wetlands, approaching at right angles to streams, etc. If the proposed project includes disturbance of five or more acres of land during construction, and point source discharges into waters of the United States (i.e., water bodies such as rivers, lakes, wetlands, etc.), coverage under an EPA storm water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit may be required. Contact your state environmental agency for further information on the NPDES program.

Noise - The document should indicate what noise levels can be expected from the project, and the distance to the closest residence/receptor. Background noise levels should also be included in the document. The NEPA evaluation should estimate the projected incremental increase of noise. Generally, EPA considers all increases over 10 dBA at any given noise level as a significant

increase. Comparisons to any noise guidelines (e.g., FHWA, HUD) or city ordinances are also appropriate. EPA has a *target* noise level (not a guideline or standard) of 55 dBA DNL for outdoor areas where people spend a varying amount of time (such as residences). All construction equipment should be equipped with noise attenuation devices, such as mufflers and insulated engine housings. In addition, OSHA regulations apply for all employees affected by job noises.

Forms of noise mitigation include, but are not limited to, vegetative screens, vegetated earthen berms, and fabricated noise barriers. If noise impacts are significant at residences just outside the normal width of the right-of-way, relocation of residents should also be considered at the discretion of the affected residents. Avoiding noise impacts via alignment shifts is frequently more effective than mitigation.

Environmental Justice (EJ) - Consistent with Executive Order 12898 (2/11/94), potential EJ impacts should be considered in the NEPA document. An EJ survey helps to ensure equitable environmental protection regardless of race, ethnicity, economic status or community, so that no segment of the population bears a disproportionate share of the consequences of environmental pollution attributable to a proposed project.

The demographics of the affected area should be defined using U.S. Census data (Census blocks) and compared to other nearby Census block, county, and state percentages for minorities and/or low-income populations. If percentages of these populations are elevated within the project area, alternatives should be considered, or coordination with affected populations should be conducted, to determine the affected population's concerns and comments on the project. This coordination should include a clear discussion of the project, project updates or expansions, inclusion of the affected population (or their community leader, pastor, or equivalent) on the NEPA document mailing list, any economic benefits (job opportunities, etc.) of the project to the affected population, and the opportunity for informal and/or formal comments (e.g., EIS scoping meeting and EIS public hearing, or other public meetings). Regardless of the makeup of the affected population, impacts of the project should be controlled so that significant effects on human health are avoided and/or minimized.

Air Quality - All emissions resulting from the project must be in compliance with all applicable air quality regulations, particularly relative to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria air pollutants (e.g., ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, lead and particulates) in designated nonattainment areas. All construction equipment should be tuned to manufacturer's specifications to reduce air emissions. Open burning should be minimized/avoided, since such emissions are precursors to ozone. Open burning should be coordinated with the state and/or county regarding permitting needs. We recommend water for fugitive dust control during construction, instead of oils and other chemicals.

Cultural Resources - A cultural resource survey should be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Besides the consideration of listed historical sites, the NEPA document should discuss procedures for events such as unearthing archaeological sites during prospective construction. Such procedures should include work cessation in the area until SHPO

approval of continued construction.

Biodiversity - Biodiversity is defined as the variety of plants and animals (biota) of a site or region, and is typically measured by the number of different species and number of individuals per species. In general, the more diverse an area is (number of habitat types and animal inhabitants) and the better represented these components are (population counts), the more rigorous (resistant, undisturbed, natural, "healthy") the area is considered.

The NEPA document should discuss biodiversity aspects of the proposal as appropriate. For example, will the project increase, restore, or decrease biodiversity of the area or region? Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and your state's fish and game department is recommended regarding the design of any project mitigation areas to enhance or restore biodiversity.

Endangered Species - The FWS is the responsible agency for endangered species compliance, so EPA defers to FWS regarding assessments of federally-protected endangered species. However, the NEPA document should discuss survey results and adjust the proposed alignment as appropriate. Early coordination with the FWS is recommended.

Cumulative Impacts - The NEPA document should estimate cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project. Cumulative impacts include the additive effects of a given parameter for all contributing projects in the area, as well as the cumulative impact of all parameters for all projects in the area. The document should define what cumulative impacts would result from implementation of the proposed project. Existing or future projects (federal and non-federal projects) with attendant pollutants should also be considered.

Cases exist where the proposed project is the primary or a significant contributor to the cumulative impacts of an area; however, there could also be cases where the proposed project has minimal impacts but the cumulative impacts would nevertheless be great due to the existing impacts of projects in the area. As such, even EAs with minimal impacts should at least address cumulative impacts for the project area.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702-2432
(727)570-5317; FAX 570-5300

FEB 24 2004

February 18, 2004 F/SER43:MT/dbc

Ms. Suzanne Boltz
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology
15 Loveton Circle
Sparks, Maryland 21152

Dear Ms Boltz:

This responds to your letter dated January 29, 2004, regarding the National Park Service preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, Development Concept Plan in Macon County, Alabama.

The resources affected are not ones for which the National Marine Fisheries Service is responsible and, therefore, we have no information or comment to provide regarding the proposed project.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Thompson at our Panama City Office. He may be reached at 850-234-5061.

Sincerely,

Miles M. Croom.
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc:
FSER/4

cc:email
F/SER3 (Bolden)





BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

M. BARNETT LAWLEY
COMMISSIONER

RICHARD C. LILES
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
64 NORTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130

JAMES H. GRIGGS, DIRECTOR
GREGORY M. LEIN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
STATE LANDS DIVISION

TELEPHONE (334) 242-3464
FAX NO. (334) 242-0999

February 19, 2004

Ms. Suzanne Boltz
EA Engineering, Science, and Technology
15 Loveton Circle
Sparks, MD 21152

RE: Sensitive Species Information request
Tuskegee Airmen national Historic Site, Development Concept Plan

Dear Ms. Boltz:

The Natural Heritage Section office received your letter dated January 29, 2004 addressed to James H. Griggs on February 13, 2004 and has since developed the following information pertaining to state protected, federally listed threatened and endangered species, and species that we believe to be sensitive to environmental perturbations. I have enclosed a list of sensitive species which the Natural Heritage Section Database or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have indicated occur or have occurred in Macon County. Additionally, I have listed some potentially helpful and informative web sites at the end of this letter.

The Natural Heritage Section database contains numerous records of sensitive species in Macon County. Our database indicates the area of interest has had no biological survey performed at the delineated location, by our staff or any individuals referenced in our database. Therefore we can make no accurate assessment to the past or current inhabitancy of any federal or state protected species at that location. A biological survey conducted by trained professionals is the most accurate way to ensure that no sensitive species are jeopardized by the development activities. The closest sensitive species is recorded in our database as occurring approximately 1.1 miles from the subject site. This species occurs in small to medium rivers with expanses of clean sand and gravel. Usually in water more than 60 cm deep with strong current. It is apparently vulnerable to siltation and other forms of pollution as well as water flow modifications (dams, etc.). Localized populations are vulnerable to extirpation from single destructive events such as spills of toxins. This species is relatively tolerant of nondestructive intrusion, though heavy recreational use of habitat potentially could be excessively disruptive.*

I hope this information will be useful to you. The provided information is to help you in fulfilling your necessary legal obligations. The information does not suggest that protected species are not at this location. The specific location of a sensitive species is considered



Ms. Suzanne Boltz
2/19/2004
Page 2

confidential information by a State Lands Division Regulation and can be released only to individuals who enter into a confidentiality and indemnity contract with the State Lands Division.

The Natural Heritage Section provides this information as a service to the people of Alabama. The NHS acts as a clearing house for species distribution data. We happily accept any information environmental researchers are willing to donate. Sensitive species exact locations are kept confidential. If you would be willing to donate any information to this database, we will be better able to assist all individuals interested in environmental compliance.

Sincerely,



Jo Lewis
Database Manager

Enclosures

Cc: Chris Smith

¹¹Paraphrased Information from NatureServe. 2003. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 1.8. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: February 19, 2004).

Potentially helpful web sites

Information about federally listed species
<http://www.pfmt.org/wildlife/endangered/>
<http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/FOTG/alTE.html>
http://ecos.fws.gov/webpage/webpage_usa_lists.html?#AL
<http://southeast.fws.gov/daphne/specieslst.htm>
<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>

Non-game species regulation starts on page 75

http://www.dcnr.state.al.us/agfd/2002-2003_regbook.doc

ALABAMA'S FEDERALLY LISTED AND STATE PROTECTED SPECIES (BY COUNTY)

This list is a combination of the June 2002 U.S.F.W. Service (Daphne field Office) federally listed species by county list and the Alabama State Lands Division's Natural Heritage Section Database of species distributions data. This list is continually being updated, and, therefore, it may be incomplete or inaccurate and is provided strictly for informational purposes. It does not constitute any form of Section 7 consultation. We recommend that the U.S.F.W. Service Field Office in Daphne be contacted for Section 7 consultations. Site specific information can be provided by the Alabama State Lands Division's Natural Heritage Section and/or the U.S.F.W. Service (Daphne field Office) prior to project activities. To be certain of occurrence, surveys should be conducted by qualified biologists to determine if a sensitive species occurs within a project area. Species not listed for a given county does not imply that they do not occur there, only that their occurrence there is as yet unrecorded by these two agencies.

Key to codes on list: (P) - Historical Record and/ or Possible Occurrence in the County
 Federal E - Endangered C - Candidate Species
 Federal T - Threatened Experimental - Nonessential Experimental Populations occur in

Macon

Protection Status	Common name	Scientific Name	State Regulation Applicable
Endangered	Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	220-2-.92 (1) (d)
Endangered	Southern Clubshell	<i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
Endangered	Red-cockaded Woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	220-2-.92 (1) (d)
Endangered	Ovate Clubshell	<i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
* Threatened	Finelined Pocketbook	<i>Lampsilis altilis</i>	220-2-.98 (1) (a)
State Protected	Southeastern Pocket Gopher	<i>Geomys pinetis</i>	220-2-.92 (1) (e)
State Protected	Gopher Tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	220-2-.92 (1) (c)
* State Protected	Crystal Darter	<i>Crystallaria asprella</i>	220-2-.92 (1) (a)
State Protected	Alabama Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys pulchra</i>	220-2-.92 (1) (c)

* *Euphagus cyanocephalus*

ALABAMA'S FEDERALLY LISTED AND STATE PROTECTED SPECIES (BY COUNTY)

Notes:

- Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, red-cockaded woodpecker *Picoides borealis* and the American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) may occur in any county, if habitat exists.
- Wood stork / July - October
- Bald eagle / Wintering birds possible in areas with reservoirs.
- Sea turtles / Only loggerhead is potential nester, the rest are in coastal waters.
- Black bear *Ursus americanus* sp. - known to exist in Mobile County, but not listed.
- Gulf moccasinshell *Medionidus penicillatus*, oval pigtoe *Pleurobema pyriforme*, Chipola slabshell *Elliptio chipolaensis*, and purple bankclimber *Elliptio deatmanianus*, are freshwater mussels of the family Unionidae found only in eastern Gulf Slope streams draining the Apalachicola Region, defined as streams from the Escambia to the Suwannee river systems, and occurring in southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia, and north Florida. All are listed as "Endangered".
- Fanshell *Cyprogenia stegaria*, Oyster mussel *Epioblasma capsaeformis*, Catspaw (purple cat's paw pearlymussel) *Epioblasma obliquata obliquata*, are historically known to be found in the Tennessee River system and drainage.
- Gentian pinkroot *Spigelia gentianoides*, has been historically found along the Alabama-Florida border.
- West Indian Manatee *Trichechus manatus*, have been known to move north along the gulf coast west to Louisiana.
- Experimental * Species is protected throughout its range including Colbert and Lauderdale counties except for the nonessential experimental population. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of Nonessential Experimental Population Status for 16 Freshwater Mussels and 1 Freshwater Snail in the Free-Flowing Reach of the Tennessee River below the Wilson Dam, Colbert and Lauderdale Counties, Alabama. [Federal Register; June 14, 2001 (Volume 66, Number 115)] RIN 1018-AE92
- ** (S/A) Similarity of Appearance to a threatened Taxon.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

APR 06 2004

CESAM-PD-EC

19 February 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR EA Engineering, Science and Technology (SUZANNE BOLTZ),
15 Loveton Circle, Sparks, MD 21152

SUBJECT: Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, Development Concept Plan

1. Enclosed are our comments on the subject report as requested.
2. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this action. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Jonathan Bowman at 251/694-3854.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Ivester Rees", is positioned above the printed name.

SUSAN IVESTER REES, Ph.D.
Team Leader, Coastal Environment Team

Encl

- Because the proposed action is located at a National Historic Site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers (COE), the COE doesn't have any record of any historic or cultural resource information concerning the action area.

However, in April 2001, the COE conducted a Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) for the closure of six underground storage tanks at Moton Field, and it determined (through coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer) that that action would have "no effect on any known cultural resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places".

Further coordination (for the proposed action) with the Alabama SHPO, Ms. Elizabeth Ann Brown, (phone # 334-230-2645) is recommended.

- Tuskegee is located in an area associated with the following species: (from US Fish and Wildlife Service {<http://daphne.fws.gov/es/specieslst.htm>} as of 30 January 2004):

Macon County (E = endangered, T = threatened)

E - Red-cockaded woodpecker *Picoides borealis*
 E - Wood stork *Mycteria americana*
 E - Southern clubshell mussel *Pleurobema decisum*
 E - Ovate clubshell mussel *Pleurobema perovatum*
 T - Fine-lined pocketbook mussel *Lampsilis altilis*

Further coordination with Mr. John Hornsby (phone # 334-242-3420) of ADCNR in Montgomery (concerning flora/fauna in specific project area) is recommended.

- Regarding the proposed improvements by the National Park Service to an unnamed tributary to Uphapee Creek, and construction of the storm water management detention ponds, such improvements might require a Department of the Army (DOA) permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Once you have firm plans for these improvements, we request you telephone Ms. Cindy House-Pearson of our Regulatory Branch so that she can visit the site and determine whether a DOA permit will be required. Ms. House-Pearson can be reached at (251) 690-3188.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

February 27, 2004

MAR 02 2004
Bp/ea

Coastal Environmental Team
Planning and Environmental Division

Ms. Suzanne Boltz
EA Engineering, Science and Technology
15 Loveton Circle
Sparks, Maryland 21152

Dear Ms. Boltz

Enclosed are our comments on the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, Development Concept Plan as requested.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this action. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mr. Jonathan Bowman at (251) 694-3854.

Sincerely,

Susan Ivester Rees, Ph.D.
Team Leader, Coastal Environment

Enclosure

- Because the proposed action is located at a National Historic Site that is not under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers (COE), the COE doesn't have any record of any historic or cultural resource information concerning the action area.

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Once you have firm plans for these improvements, we request you telephone Ms. Cindy House-Pearson of our Regulatory Branch so that she can visit the site and determine whether a DOA permit will be required. Ms. House-Pearson can be reached at (251) 690-3188.

In addition to (possible) DOA permit requirements, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit may be required from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The ADEM permit division can be reached at (334) 271-7714.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Alabama Flight Standards District Office -09

1500 Urban Center Drive
Suite 250
Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35242
(205) 731-1557 ext 136, Fax: (205) 731-0939

March 4, 2004

EA Engineering, Science, and Technology
Suzanne Boltz
15 Loveton Circle
Sparks, MD 21152

Dear Ms. Boltz:

In reference to your letter dated January 29, 2004, this office completed a site visit of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in accordance with your Development Concept Plan. Several businesses in the area were contacted to determine what affect additional air traffic and aircraft noise might have on the area.

This office received only positive comments from the local businesses in the vicinity of Moton Field. Each establishment contacted felt that this renovation would only have a positive impact on Tuskegee and Macon County. The local Fire Chief, Derrick E. Swanson, hoped that the project would increase his staffing at the Fire Station and also stated that this project would have a tremendous economic impact locally as well as Statewide.

If you require additional assistance from this office please contact me at the telephone number listed above.

Sincerely,


James H. Fitzgerald
Manager



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
P. O. Drawer 1190
Daphne, Alabama 36526

MAR 15 2004

IN REPLY REFER TO:

04-0587

March 12, 2004

Ms. Suzanne Boltz
EA Engineering Science and Technology
15 Loveton Circle
Sparks, MD 21152

Dear Ms. Boltz:

Thank you for your letter dated January 29, 2004, providing information on the National Park Service's proposal to preserve and restore existing historic structures and cultural landscape of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, and to make alterations to an unnamed tributary to Uphapee Creek. Construction activity proposed for the unnamed tributary includes the removal of existing stream vegetation, debris blockages, and natural restrictions. The project is within the area comprising the historic Moton Field flight training facility, near the City of Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama. We have reviewed the information and are providing the following comments in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the Fish and the Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. et seq.).

Endangered Species

The unnamed tributary affected by the project drains into a segment of Uphapee Creek extending from Alabama Highway 199 upstream to confluence of Opintlocco and Chewacla Creeks, which has been proposed as Critical Habitat (68 FR 14751-14832, March 26, 2003) for the following Federally listed mussel species:

Southern clubshell (*Pleurobema decisum*) - Endangered
Finlined pocketbook (*Lampsilis altilis*) - Threatened
Ovate clubshell (*Pleurobema perovatum*) - Endangered

Based on our records and data, the above listed mussel species still occur downstream of the confluence of the tributary with Uphapee Creek (USFWS 2000). Also, based on our records and data, the project area is within the historic range of the red-cockaded woodpecker (USFWS 1985), which may be present if suitable habitat occurs within the project area. Species and habitat descriptions for the listed mussels and woodpecker are provided in the enclosed Federally Listed Species Fact Sheet.

We are concerned about potential adverse effects the project may have on above-listed species.

PHONE: 334-441-5181

www.fws.gov

FAX: 334-441-6222

SHIPPING ADDRESS: 1208-B Main Street, Daphne, AL 36526

We are concerned about potential adverse effects the project may have on above-listed species. Therefore, we recommend an initial habitat survey be conducted in the project area for the red-cockaded woodpecker. Because, listed mussels are known to occur in Uphapee Creek, a new survey in this creek is unnecessary. The unnamed tributary isn't large enough to support those mussels, therefore a survey of it is unnecessary.

A forester may perform an initial timber assessment for the woodpecker habitat evaluation. A population survey should occur if pine trees greater than 60 years old are present within the project area. The selected biologist should be familiar with the species' required habitat and experienced in conducting woodpecker surveys. **If habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker does not exist, then a survey is unnecessary.**

Aquatic Concerns

Construction activities will likely result in downstream sedimentation and turbidity, with potential adverse effects on the listed mussels and their habitats in Uphapee Creek. Such disturbances, may result in detrimental effects on other aquatic species as well.

Per a telephone conversation with you, nothing more than the conceptual plan attached in your letter has been developed for the project. For an assessment of possible impacts, we request a detailed plan of the project once developed. We are providing some recommendations below you may wish to incorporate in the plan development for protection of the listed species, and fish and wildlife resources in general. We may have additional comments and/or recommendations once we have reviewed detailed plans.

Terrestrial Concerns

Activities associated with preservation and restoration of historic structures and cultural landscape such as construction of support facilities such as parking, may have direct adverse effects on the red-cockaded woodpecker and its habitat, if present.

Recommendations

1. Avoid any major stream alteration if at all possible. As an alternative, develop a comprehensive stormwater management plan using measures such as pervious surfacing materials, stormwater diversion, retention ponds, and revegetation with trees and natural vegetation, rather than stream alteration for flood control.
2. If stream alteration is absolutely necessary, develop specific best management practices (BMPs) to limit downstream disturbance, particularly sedimentation and turbidity, during and after construction. BMPs should include avoidance of construction activity except during dry, low-water periods; use of a temporary coffer dam and/or siltation fences and use of hay bales. Any dredge spoil or debris should be disposed on an upland site with low erosion potential.
3. If log jam or minor amounts of trash and debris need to be removed, space removal actions so that only minor disturbance occurs during the same time period.

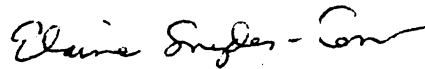
4. Identify and preserve all areas with woodpecker cavities and plan or design new construction to avoid those areas and provide a wide activity-free buffer, especially during nesting period (April – June).

5. Develop a detailed site-specific erosion control plan and BMPs plan to minimize soil runoff and sedimentation in downstream waters from land activities.

Please provide us with a copy of plans for stormwater management/erosion control, including a list of BMPs and a description of the survey methods, habitat observed, and survey results for our review. Upon receipt of those plans and the requested survey report, we will provide our final comments and consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Initiation of formal consultation may be necessary after our review of the requested information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Bill Young at (251) 441-5842. In correspondence, please refer to the reference number above.

Sincerely,



for

Larry E. Goldman
Field Supervisor

Enclosures

References:

USFWS. 2000. Mobile River Basin Aquatic Ecosystem Recovery Plan. Atlanta, GA. 128 pp.

USFWS. 1985. Recovery plan for the red-cockaded woodpecker. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia. 88 pages.

Federally Listed Species Fact Sheet

Southern Clubshell (*Pleurobema decisum*)

This medium sized mussel reaches about 70 mm in length with a thick, roughly rectangular shaped shell. This species is known to occur in the Bogue Chitto River in the Alabama River drainage, but recent records could not confirm existence in either the Coosa or Cahaba River drainages, where it was located historically.

Because of their rather sedentary nature, freshwater mussels are especially vulnerable to stream perturbations. Sedimentation can smother mussels, causing direct lethal or sublethal adverse effects. Many mussel species are unable to survive in a layer of silt greater than 0.6 cm. High turbidity levels due to the presence of suspended solids in the water column have a mechanical or abrasive action that can irritate, damage, or cause clogging of the gills or feeding structures of mollusks. Additionally, high levels of suspended solids may reduce or inhibit feeding by filter-feeding organisms, such as mussels, causing nutritional stress and mortality. Impacts on host-fish populations such as smothering of fish eggs or larvae, reducing food availability, or filling of interstitial spaces in gravel and rubble substrate, critical to the survival of young fishes may indirectly affect the mussel's survival. Mussels are dependent on host fish for successful reproduction. High concentrations of suspended solids/turbidity resulting from disturbance to soils or sediments in a stream could also interfere with host attraction and attachment of glochidia or visual location of mussels by the fish. Excessive turbidity can prevent or reduce the host fish's ability to see or recognize the glochidia when displayed by the mussel. Any excessive sedimentation from the waterline's construction may also result in reduction of macroinvertebrate species diversity and population declines. Host fish, dependent on macroinvertebrates for a food source may subsequently decline, limiting reproduction and recruitment of host-dependent mussels.

References:

Gangloff, M. M. and J. W. Feminella. 2002. Distribution and status of freshwater mussels Bivalvia: Unionidae in the Upper Alabama (Coosa and Lower Tallapoosa) Drainage, Alabama. Final report to Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Game and Fish, Montgomery, Alabama. 127 pp.

Finelined Pocketbook (*Lampsilis altilis*)

The finelined pocketbook is a medium-sized mussel, suboval in shape, and rarely exceeding 100 mm (4 in.) in length. The ventral margin of the shell is angled posteriorly in females, resulting in a pointed posterior margin. The periostracum is yellow-brown to blackish and has fine rays on the posterior half. The nacre is white, becoming iridescent posteriorly. The finelined pocketbook can be distinguished from a similar species, the orange-nacre mucket (*L. perovalis*) by its more elongate shape, thinner shell, white nacre, pointed posterior, and ray ornamentation.

The finelined pocketbook was described from the Alabama River near Claiborne, Monroe County,

Alabama. This species was historically recorded from the Sipsey and Buttahatchee Rivers in the Tombigbee River drainage; Black Warrior River and tributaries (Sipsey Fork, Brushy and Capsey Creeks); Cahaba River and Tributaries (Little Cahaba and Buck Creeks); Alabama River and a secondary tributary, Tatum Creek; Chewacla and Opintlocco Creeks in the Tallapoosa River drainage; and the Coosa River and tributaries (Choccolocco and Talladega Creeks).

The current distribution of the finelined pocketbook appears limited to the headwaters of the Sipsey Fork of the Black Warrior River drainage; Tatum Creek in the Alabama River drainage; Little Cahaba River in the Cahaba River drainage; Conasauga River in the Coosa River; and Chewacla and Opintlocco Creeks in the Tallapoosa drainage. This species may have been eliminated from most river habitat throughout its range. Currently, it appears to be restricted to creek habitat.

Ovate Clubshell (*Pleurobema perovatum*)

The ovate clubshell (*P. perovatum* (Conrad 1834)) is a small to medium-sized mussel rarely exceeding 50 mm (2.0 in.) in length. The shell is oval to elliptical in shape, and has nearly terminal, inflated umbos. The posterior ridge is well-developed, broadly rounded, and often concave. The posterior slope is produced well beyond the posterior ridge. Periostracum color varies from yellow to dark brown. Occasionally, broad green rays cover most of the umbo and posterior ridge. The nacre is white. Due to the nearly terminal umbos in some specimens, ovate clubshells may be mistaken for young southern clubshells (*P. decisum*). They may be distinguished from the latter by their thinner shells, and a gently sloping, well developed posterior slope.

The ovate clubshell was described from small streams in Greene County, Alabama. The species occurred in the Tombigbee River and tributaries (Buttahatchee and Sipsey Rivers; Luxapalila, Coalfire and Lubbub Creeks); Black Warrior River and tributaries (Locust Fork; Village, Prairie, Big Prairie, Brushy and Blackwater Creeks); Alabama River; Cahaba River and the tributary Buck Creek; Chewacla, Uphabee and Opintlocco Creeks in the Tallapoosa drainage; and the Coosa River and tributaries (Conasauga and Etowah Rivers, and Holly Creek). Currently, the species is known from the Buttahatchee and Sipsey Rivers in the Tombigbee River drainage; Blackwater Creek and Locust Fork in the Black Warrior drainage; and Chewacla Creek in the Tallapoosa drainage (Dodd et al. 1986, Hartfield and Jones 1989, Pierson 1991). The most recent records from the Coosa drainage are two lots collected by Hurd (1974). The ovate clubshell was last collected in the Cahaba River in 1978 by Hanley (in litt. 1990). Pierson (1991) did not find the ovate clubshell in the Coosa River drainage or the Cahaba River drainage.

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*)

The red-cockaded woodpecker is 18 to 20 centimeters long with a wing span of 35 to 38 centimeters. This woodpecker's diet is composed mainly of insects, including ants, beetles, wood-boring insects, caterpillars, and corn earworms if available. About 16 to 18 percent of the diet includes seasonal wild fruit. Egg laying occurs during April, May, and June with the female utilizing her mate's roosting cavity for a nest. Roosting cavities are excavated in living pines, usually in those infected with a fungus producing what is known as red-heart disease. Maximum

clutch size is seven eggs with the average being three to five eggs. From egg laying to fledging requires about 38 days. Another several weeks are needed before the young become completely independent. Red-cockaded woodpeckers usually occur in families, with siblings and progeny assisting a single pair in feeding new young. This bird's range is closely tied to the distribution of southern pines. Open stands of pines with a minimum age of 60 to 80 years, depending on the site, provide suitable nesting habitat. Longleaf pines (*Pinus palustris*) are most commonly used, but other species of southern pine are also acceptable. Dense stands (stands that are primarily hardwoods, or that have a dense hardwood understory) are avoided. Foraging habitat is provided in pine and pine hardwood stands 30 years old or older with foraging preference for pine trees 10 inches or larger in diameter. In good, well-stocked pine habitat, sufficient forage for a reproductive pair can be provided on 80 to 125 acres. The decline of the species is attributed primarily to the reduction of pine forest with trees 60 years old and older and to the encroachment of hardwood midstory due to fire suppression.

References:

USFWS. 1985. Recovery plan for the red-cockaded woodpecker. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia. 88 pages.

Walker, J.S. 1995. Potential red-cockaded woodpecker habitat produced on a sustained basis under different silvicultural systems. Pp. 112-130 In D.L. Kulhavy, R.G. Hooper, and R. Costa (ed.). Red-cockaded woodpecker: recovery, ecology and management. Center for applied studies in forestry, College of Forestry Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
1212 Old Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088
334-727-6390

Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
c/o Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
1816 Chappie James Road
Tuskegee, AL 36087
334-724-0922

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A-3824

June 24, 2004

Kevin P. Battise
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Rt. 3 Box 640
Livingston, TX 77351

The Honorable Kevin P. Battise,

As the Acting Superintendent of the recently established Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, located in Tuskegee Alabama, I am pleased to inform you that we are beginning work on a General Management Plan and the accompanying Environmental Assessment. A brief description of the proposed project is enclosed.

Since the park is located in eastern Alabama, part of the traditional homeland of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, we wish to inform you of this opportunity to participate in the planning process. I am writing to inquire if the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas wishes to consult with the National Park Service regarding the preparation of the park's General Management Plan and/or the Environmental Assessment. Even if you do not desire formal consultation on this project, we would be pleased to receive any advice or recommendations you might have. I am writing to all the present-day federally recognized Tribes that I understand to be derived, in whole or in part, from the original Creek Nation.

This letter is intended to comply with the National Park Service's mandate to consult on a government-to-government basis with your Tribe. Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site is committed to honoring its obligations and responsibilities toward the sovereign, federally recognized Indian Tribes, which have a cultural affiliation with the park.

Please direct your comments, advice or recommendations, or your desire to enter into formal consultation, to me at the address shown above, or by telephone at 334-727-6390, or you may e-mail me at TUAI-superintendent@nps.gov. We may then arrange mutually agreeable time(s) and location(s) for consultation. We look forward to your reply and to establishing a continuing relationship with the Tribal government of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. A response within thirty days would be very gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mark Lewis
Superintendent



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
1212 Old Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36089
334-727-6390

Tuskegee Airman National Historic Site
c/o Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
1616 Chapple James Road
Tuskegee, AL 36087
334-724-0922

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a document to determine whether the actions considered may have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. It also serves as the basis for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) under NPS regulations.

The EA will document and analyze the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed action to preserve and rehabilitate the site. Impacts to natural and cultural resources will be measured in terms of context, intensity, and duration. Environmental impacts will be documented and analyzed in the EA.

The word "significantly" (as in "significantly affect the quality of the human environment") is defined in the CEQ regulations at 40 CFR 1508.27. The EA should be structured to address the contents of this definition specifically. Additional requirements for EA content are found in 40 CFR 1508.9 (...Shall include brief discussions of the need for the proposal, or alternatives as required by Section 101(2) (E) [of the Act], of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives, and a listing of agencies and persons).

A General Management Plan (GMP) is a long-term (15-20 year) planning document required by law of all parks in the National Park System. The purpose of a GMP is to provide basic direction to park managers for preserving and protecting the parks historic and natural resources and to establish the range of visitor activities and experiences that should be achieved and maintained over time. All GMPs include full public involvement, an environmental impact analysis and agency approvals. Federal law and NPS policy require that all GMPs include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The GMP planning process identifies goals based on the legislative intent of the park, analyzes existing conditions and future possibilities, and determines the best course of action to accomplish these goals. Recommendations made in a GMP are based on an analysis of existing and potential resource conditions and visitor experiences, environmental (including natural, cultural, and socioeconomic) impacts, and costs of alternative courses of action. GMPs do not include detailed recommendations for facility design, landscape design, museum design, prescribed maintenance techniques, or guarantee funding for its recommendations.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Chickasaw Nation

Post Office Box 1548 • Ada, Oklahoma 74821

(580) 436-2603 • Fax (580) 436-4287

<http://www.chickasaw.net/~cnation>

BILL ANOATUBBY
GOVERNOR

July 6, 2004

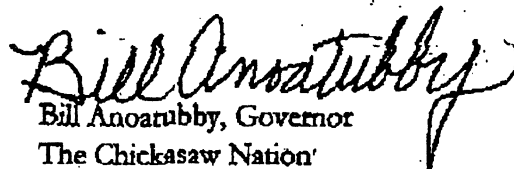
Mr. Mark Lewis, Superintendent
Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
1212 Old Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

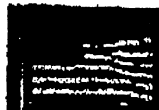
Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for your recent letter. Your inviting the Chickasaw Nation to participate in the planning process for the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site is appreciated. We have shared your letter with the administrator of the Chickasaw Nation Division of Heritage Preservation for his review. Mr. Kirk Perry or one of his staff will be in contact with you.

Again, thank you for writing, and best wishes.

Sincerely,


Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation



God Bless America!

CHITIMACHA
TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

CULTURAL DEPARTMENT

July 8, 2004

Mr. Mark Lewis
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1212 Old Montgomery
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

Re: Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment
Tuskegee, Alabama

Dear Mr. Lewis:

We are in receipt of your letter, dated June 24, 2004, concerning the above-referenced project. The state of Alabama is not part of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana's aboriginal homeland; therefore, this project will not be of interest to the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana.

The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana appreciates your compliance with federal and state law concerning Native American notification and consultation. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (337) 923-9923.

Sincerely,



Kimberly S. Walden,
Cultural Director

KW:JD



CADDO TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Cultural Preservation Department

Post Office Box 487

Binger, Oklahoma 73009

405-656-2901 405-656-2344

Fax # 405-656-2892



July 14, 2004

Mr. Mark Lewis
United States Department of Interior
National Park Service
Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
1212 Old Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

Re: A-3824

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for the invitation to consult on the General Management Plan for the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, however, the Caddo Nation does not have any traditional homelands within the state of Alabama. The homelands of the Caddo Nation were in southeast Oklahoma, northeast Texas, northwest Louisiana, and southwest Arkansas. However, we thank you for the opportunity to consult.

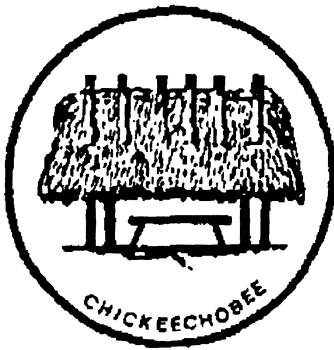
Sincerely,

Robert Cast
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

RECEIVED

JUL 20 2004

Central Alabama
Parks Historic
Tuskegee Institute, AL



Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Business Council Members
Billy Cypress, Chairman

Jasper Nelson, Ass't. Chairman
Max Billie, Treasurer

Andrew Bert Sr., Secretary
Jerry Cypress, Lawmaker

July 26, 2004

Superintendent Mark Lewis
Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
1212 Old Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

Dear Superintendent Lewis:

The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida received your letter concerning the Tuskegee Airman National Historic Site. The Tribe will provide comments on the Environmental Assessment and provide recommendations. However, the Tribal Elders have decided to limit our activities to the State of Florida. Therefore, we will defer to the wishes of the other tribes which have a more direct affiliation with the site.

Thank you for consulting with us. Please contact me at (305) 223-8380, Ext. 2244, or Mr. Fred Dayhoff at (239) 695-4360 if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Steve Terry
NAGPRA & Section 106 Representative

THPO

Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
P. O. Box 750
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731
803-328-2427 Fax 803-328-5791
ccppcrafts.com

THPO # 2004-50-2

RECEIVED

AUG 20 2004

Central Alabama
Parks Hdqtrs.



13 August 2004

Attention: Mark Lewis
Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site
1212 Old Montgomery Road
Tuskegee, AL 36088

RE: THPO # 2004-50-2, General Management Plan Project, Tuskegee Airmen
National Historic Site, Tuskegee Alabama.

Dear Sir:

The Catawba Indian Nation THPO will defer comment on this proposed project to those federally recognized Indian Tribes whose cultural and geographic affiliation to this area are closer than our own. This site is not within the geographic area that is reviewed by the Catawba Indian Nation THPO, and we are not derived from the Creek Nation.

If you have questions please feel free to contact our office 803-328-2427, Beckee Garris, ext. 232, or Sandra Reinhardt, ext. 233.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Weponah G. Haire in black ink.

Weponah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Gilbert Blue, Chief, Catawba Indian Nation
Executive Committee, Catawba Indian Nation
John E. George, Traditional Medicine, Catawba Indian Nation



RECEIVED OCT 01 2004

September 27, 2004

S. Lorraine Norwood
Southern Research
P.O. Box 250
Ellerslie, Georgia 31807

Re: AHC 04-0495; CRA, Identification of Remains of Non-Exant Buildings, Moton Field
Historic Complex, Macon County

LEE H. WARNER
Executive Director

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama
36130-0900

tel 334 242-3184
fax 334 240-3477

Dear Ms. Norwood:

Upon review of the cultural resource assessment conducted by Southern Research for the above referenced project, the Alabama Historical Commission has determined that we agree with the author's recommendations and we concur with the proposed project activities per the submitted design development. We look forward to reviewing future documents associated with this project.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's non-renewable resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda McBride of this office and include the AHC tracking number referenced above.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EAB/ALM/LOB/CMB/alm

Cc The Jaeger Company
119 Washington Street
Gainesville, Georgia 30501

